

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 03409 010921Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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ACDA-05 MC-02 IO-10 OMB-01 EUR-12 SAJ-01 /087 W

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R 010440Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2762

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

CONFIDENTIAL KABUL 3409

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PK, AF

SUBJ: AFGHAN RESPONSE TO ARMS CACHE ACCUSATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 4687, KARACHI 0940

1. AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN MAY 24 "FIRMLY AND CATEGORICALLY" REJECTED PAKISTANI ALLEGATIONS THAT AFGHAN GOVERNMENT IMPLICATED IN ARMS CACHE FOUND NEAR QUETTA IN BALUCHISTAN. SPOKESMAN WENT ON TO STATE: "THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE PASHTUN AND BALUCHI PEOPLE HAVE STRUGGLED AND CONTINUE TO DO SO AGAINST EVER KIND OF ADVERSITY IN DEFENSE OF THEIR INALIENABLE RIGHTS. IT IS ALSO AN UNDENIABLE FACT, EVEN TO PAKISTAN ITSELF, THAT IN THESE AREAS FOR LONG YEARS SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES, AND EVERY SORT OF WEAPON, HAS EXISTED. RIGHT NOW THERE ARE PRODUCTION SHOPS WHICH MAKE WEAPONS, AND MARKET THEM FREELY IN VARIOUS PARTS OF PASHTUNISTAN."

2. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT CONCERNING THE INCIDENT, KABUL TIMES ELABORATED ON ARMS MANUFACTURE AND TRAFFIC IN PAKISTAN: "NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 KABUL 03409 010921Z

ONLY PRODUCTION, BUT ALSO MARKETING OF ALL KINDS OF LIGHT

WEAPONRY, WHICH INCLUDES GUNS AND STENGUNS, MACHINEGUNS, RIFLES, PISTOLS, BULLETS, GRENADES, DYNAMITE AND GUNPOWDER IS FREE OF INHIBITIONS." EDITORIAL THEN ADDS "BEING ARMED IS A WAY OF LIFE WITH OUR PASHTUN AND BALUCHI BROTHERS, FOR WHICH THEY ARE ADMIRED INTERNATIONALLY."

3. EDITORIAL CHARACTERIZES PAK ACCUSATIONS AS "ABSURD" AND "NONCHALANT," THEN REMARKS THAT "BHUTTO'S GOVERNMENT IS VISIBLY SINGING HER SWANSONG AND THE PAKISTAN NATION IS PASSING THROUGH A TRAUMATIC PERIOD."

4. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS ALSO PICKED UP A POINT NOTED EARLIER IN EMBASSY : IF CAPTURED TRAINING MATERIALS REFER TO AN AFGHAN "MINISTRY OF WAR" (WEZARAT-E-HARBIYA) THEN THEY MUST DATE FROM EARLY 1930'S, WHICH AS NEARLY AS WE CAN RECALL WAS LAST TIME THIS TERM WAS USED HERE. AFGHAN GOVERNMENT HAS HAD "MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE" (WEZARAT-E-DEFA-E-MELLI) FOR SOME FORTY YEARS.

5. IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE DEFINITIVE STATEMENT ON WHETHER CZECH EQUIPMENT ALLEGEDLY UNCOVERED COULD HAVE ENTERED PAKISTAN VIA AFGHANISTAN. CZECHS AND AFGHANS HAVE SIGNED FOUR SEPARATE MILITARY AGREEMENTS, THE FIRST IN 1956, AND SOME \$25 MILLION IN CZECH ARMS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN DELIVERED HERE. THERE IS, BESIDES, THE SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION PLANT ESTABLISHED HERE IN JULY 1967. EQUIPMENT CITED IN ISLAMABAD REFTEL DOES NOT REPEAT NOT HOWEVER FIGURE AMONG ITEMS WE HAD BELIEVED CZECHS TO HAVE SUPPLIED.

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